

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disc drive for at least reproducing data recorded on an optical disc, comprising:

a main body which includes a base frame having a chassis on which at least an optical pick-up, a turntable and a spindle motor for rotating the turntable are provided, an outer case made of metallic plates and covering the outside of the base frame, and a front panel provided in front of the outer case and made of a resin material; and

a disc tray which is movable with respect to the main body between a loaded position at which the optical disc is loaded in the main body and an ejected position at which the optical disc can be placed on or removed from the disc tray,

wherein the outer case has at least top plate, bottom plate, side plates, and front plate which respectively cover the top, bottom, sides and front of the base frame, in which the front plate is formed with a disc tray opening and the front panel is also formed with a disc tray opening substantially corresponding to the disc tray opening of the front plate of the outer case so that the disc tray can move through these openings.

2. The disc drive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front panel comprises a first panel in which the disc tray opening is formed and a second panel which is rotatably provided with respect to the first panel so as to cover the disc tray opening of the first panel.

3. The disc drive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front plate of the outer case further includes at least one

opening in addition to the disc tray opening thereof, and the first panel is also formed with an opening substantially corresponding to the opening of the front plate, in which a component or member is provided in the openings so as to close them.

4. The disc drive as claimed in claim 3, wherein the component or member includes one selected from the group comprising a headphone terminal for connection with a headphone, a volume control knob for adjusting the reproducing volume level when reproducing data recorded on the optical disc, an emergency ejection hole member through which a jig is adapted to be inserted into the main body to forcibly move the disc tray toward the ejected position at an abnormal state such as power failure, a LED which lights up when the disc drive is operated, and a movement operation button which is operated to move the disc tray when the disc tray is to be moved to the loaded position or the ejected position.

5. The disc drive as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one opening of the front plate includes five openings and the front panel also include five openings corresponding to the five openings of the front plate for receiving the headphone terminal, the volume control knob, the emergency ejection hole member, the LED and the movement operation button, respectively.

6. The disc drive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface area of the front plate excluding the openings formed therein occupies 50% or more of the projected surface area of the front of the disc drive.

7. The disc drive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front plate of the outer case is integrally formed with either one of the top plate or bottom plate.

8. A disc drive for at least reproducing data recorded on an optical disc, comprising:

a main body which includes a base frame having a chassis on which at least an optical pick-up, a turntable and a spindle motor for rotating the turntable are provided, an outer case made of metallic plates and covering the outside of the base frame, and a front panel provided in front of the outer case and made of a resin material;

a disc tray which is movable with respect to the main body between a loaded position at which the optical disc is loaded in the main body and an ejected position at which the optical disc can be placed on or removed from the disc tray; and

means for suppressing or reducing leak of noise generated in the main body due to the rotation of the optical disc to the outside of the main body, the means comprising a metallic plate provided behind the front panel, in which each of the front panel and the front plate is formed with a disc tray opening through which the disc tray can move.